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Website Review

4/2/12

1. <http://www.fodey.com/generators/newspaper/snippet.asp->

Fodey.com is a free website that provides an opportunity for creativity and summarization. This website allows the user to generate their own story in a number of creative ways. The user has the choice to either generate a newspaper, clapping board, talking objects, or scribing ninjas and wizards. I like the fact that there are so many options available, while keeping the goal the same. This site promotes creativity while also enforcing summarization skills, and writing skills. I would definitely use this website in my classroom. I would use this site as an end of lesson assignment, requiring students to write a summary using the newspaper generator to summarize the lesson or the unit. In younger students the class could do it as a whole, with the students dictating, and the teacher typing. I would like to create a bulletin board where the students could post their newspaper articles for the class to see. I believe this would reinforce the lesson’s topic, and would provide students with motivation to be creative.

1. [www.online-stopwatch.com](http://www.online-stopwatch.com)

The online-stopwatch is a free site, with a number of possibilities. This site provides the option of either a stopwatch or a countdown, in a number of formats and styles. I like the fact that it is versatile, but I also like the fact that it is outstandingly helpful and practical. When I was in school, if there was a timed test or a timed activity my teachers would use the trusty kitchen timer. However, the students within the class could not see the timer so the time remaining, and pacing yourself was left to a guessing game and hope that the clock on the wall was not slow. I like the idea of being able to set the countdown or the stop watch, pull it up to full screen, and use your projector for the whole class to see. This site could be used in a number of ways. The stopwatch could be used for an activity in which you want to see how long it takes the students to complete a task. For example, the class is reviewing for a test on the life cycle of plants. The teacher asks the students to correctly sequence the stages of a plant’s life, the teacher uses the stop watch to time how long each student, or group of students to put the stages in sequence. This will turn studying into a fun activity that students want to complete, and it will also play on the students’ natural need to be competitive in the most productive of ways. The countdown feature could be used for timing stations. The teacher wants each group to stay in their stations for a total of 15 minutes. The teacher will set the countdown clock to 15 minutes and post it on the board using the projector, when the timer goes off students know their time is up. The teacher does not have to spend her time watching the clock in the classroom and reminding them how much longer they have, instead she can focus her attention on small group instruction and constructive feedback.

1. [www.ask500people.com](http://www.ask500people.com)

Ask500people.com is a free site that allows the user to ask a question and receive responses from up to 500 people. The 500 people can be from anywhere in the world, and map on the left hand side of the screen allows the user to view where the responses originated. I love the fact that people from all over the world can log onto this site and answers questions that have been posted. In the age of social networking this website is Facebook’s intellectual counterpart. Students can answer questions, provide their opinions, and in my belief feel connected to the world outside the classroom. For starters this would be an amazing way to integrate geography into a science lesson. Students will ask a science based question on this site and receive answers from a variety of different places. The teacher could then teach the concept and then review the different places in the world using the map, where people have responded to the question. This lesson would teach students inquiry skills in the form of how to ask a proper question, it would answer the content, and it would teach mapping and geography as well. I am excited to use this site, but more importantly I believe that students would be excited and engaged as well.

1. [www.blabberize.com](http://www.blabberize.com)

Blabberize is a free site that allows the user to create animations in order to express a thought or idea. I like the opportunity provided for creativity, there are several different formats that can be used to create the animation. The user is provided with an opportunity to choose what medium they believe is best or most interesting in the conveying the information at hand. In addition to creativity, it allows the user an opportunity for humor as well. I would use this in my class as a way to assess student understanding of a concept previously taught. An example of how I would use this in my classroom is as follows; I would teach a concept thoroughly until I believe that most students understand the cosources ncept and all of the information involved. I would then work blabberize into a set of stations so each student has an opportunity to complete their animation in class. I would ask students to use the animation to summarize what they have learned throughout the lesson, I would then have students email me their link, and I would review the blabber as an assessment of what they students have learned about the concept recently taught.

1. <http://www.visual-literacy.org/periodic_table/periodic_table.html#>

This free website is packed full of resources I could use in the classroom. The resources are organized in a periodic table format. There are a variety of graphs, and visual aids that can be used to teach scientific concepts. This website is an amazing resource for teachers who teach science. In a science lesson it is important that teachers use every resource available to them, to ensure student understanding. This website is the one stop shop for such resources. The resources are organized in such a way that they would be easy to find, in addition the teacher could adapt most of these visual aids, graphics, and charts to many science lessons . I like the idea of having such a resources at my fingertips, I would use these resources in my class to ensure each student’s needs are met. As we know students all learn differently, these resources could help me meet the needs of individual learners in my classroom. I am excited to use these resources.